

IN THE CLAIMS:

Would the Office kindly enter the following amended claims:

1.(currently amended)A gardening system comprising a container having a bottom wall and a side wall extending upwardly therefrom, a soil support insert spaced from said bottom wall to define a space between said bottom wall and said soil support insert, at least one wall extending downwardly from said soil support member to define a cavity, a plurality of elongated slots in said downwardly extending wall, said elongated slots being defined by a plurality of parallel ribs, each of said ribs having an arcuate inner and outer surface to prevent root damage, said elongated slots having a width sufficient to permit root growth therethrough, water in said container, an air-space between an upper surface of said water and said soil support member, a non-soil growing medium within said cavity, said non-soil growing medium including mycorrhizal fungi, and a soil on top of said non-soil growing medium.

2.(cancelled)

3.(previously presented) The gardening system of Claim 1 wherein said elongated slots have a width of between 1.5 and 3 mm.

4.(original) The gardening system of Claim 1 wherein said non-soil growing medium comprises vermiculite or any root growth promoting material that is environment friendly, hydrophilic, non toxic, imputrescible, inert and light.

5.(original) The gardening system of Claim 4 wherein there are provided a plurality of walls extending downwardly to thereby define a plurality of cavities, each of said downwardly extending walls having a plurality of elongated slots formed therein.

6.(original) The gardening system of Claim 5 wherein said plurality of cavities

comprises at least 2 cavities in a side by side relationship.

7.(original) The gardening system of Claim 1 wherein said container has a plurality of said soil support inserts placed therein.

8.(original) The gardening system of Claim 7 wherein said soil support inserts have an overall arcuate configuration.

9. (cancelled)

10.(currently amended) The gardening system of Claim 3 wherein ~~said elongated slots are defined by parallel ribs therebetween~~, each of said ribs ~~being~~ is made of a compliant material to allow root growth and root diameter increment therethrough.

11.(currently amended) A gardening system comprising a container having a bottom wall and a side wall extending upwardly therefrom, a soil support insert spaced from said bottom wall to define a space between said bottom wall and said soil support insert, at least one wall extending downwardly from said soil support member to define a cavity, a plurality of elongated slots in said downwardly extending wall, said elongated slots being defined by a plurality of parallel ribs, each of said ribs having an arcuate inner and outer surface to prevent root damage, said elongated slots having a width sufficient to permit root growth therethrough, water in said container, an air-space between an upper surface of said water and said soil support member, a non-soil growing medium within said cavity, a vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizal inoculum placed on top of said non-soil growing medium and a soil on top of said mycorrhizal inoculum.

12.(currently amended) A gardening method comprising the steps of supplying a gardening system comprising a container having a bottom wall and a side wall

extending upwardly therefrom, a soil support insert spaced from said bottom wall to define a space between said bottom wall and said soil support insert, at least one wall extending downwardly from said soil support member to define a cavity, a plurality of elongated slots in said downwardly extending wall, said elongated slots being defined by a plurality of parallel ribs, each of said ribs having an arcuate inner and outer surface to prevent root damage, said elongated slots having a width sufficient to permit root growth therethrough. water in said container, an air-space between an upper surface of said water and said soil support member, putting a non-soil growing medium within said cavity, placing a vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizal inoculum on top of said non-soil growing medium and subsequently putting a soil on top of said mycorrhizal inoculum.